



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JULY 6, 1961

INTERIOR'S SPONGE FILM SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL SHOWINGS

Another Department of the Interior Film, Sponge--Treasure from the Sea, has been selected for showing at internationally prominent film festivals. The film was sponsored by the Sponge and Chamois Institute and produced by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service. It has already received honors at the American Film Festival.

Sponge--Treasure from the Sea is a sound-color portrayal of the natural sponge industry in the United States. Most of it was filmed at Tarpon Springs, Florida, the center of the natural sponge industry in this country. Old World ceremonies and music add interest to the picture.

The film has been selected for showing at the Edinburgh, Scotland, International Film Festival and at the Venice, Italy, International Film Festival where it vies for honors with films from more than 35 countries. Selections of American Government films for international showing is made by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Auditory and Visual Aids for Distribution Abroad. Arrangements for showing Government films at foreign film festivals are made by the U. S. Information Agency and the Department of State.

For the Edinburgh showing there will be a prescreening in London and another preview in Edinburgh before final selection. There is also a prescreening step at Venice.

Three Bureau of Commercial Fisheries films have won awards at Edinburgh and three in Venice.

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